8 should be included in Group II. Groups I and II are described as follows in the Restriction Requirement (page 2; emphasis original):

> Group 1, claim(s) 1-10, drawn to a method for treating an inflammatory disease accompanied by bone destruction comprising the step of administering a vector encoding a protein that inhibits a signal transduction pathway mediated by FGF2-FGF receptor-Ras-Raf-MAP kinase and to a composition comprising a vector encoding a protein that inhibits a signal transduction pathway mediated by FGF2-FGF receptor-Ras-Raf-MAP kinase.
>
> Group 2, claim(s) 1, 5, 6, 10, drawn to a method for treating an inflammatory disease accompanied by bone destruction comprising the step of administering a nucleic acid that inhibits a signal transduction pathway mediated by FGF2-FGF receptor-Ras-Raf-MAP kinase and to a composition comprising nucleic acid that inhibits a signal transduction pathway mediated by FGF2-FGF receptor-Ras-Raf-MAP kinase.

Applicants note that claim 1 is directed to a method for treating an inflammatory disease accompanied by bone destruction. This method involves "the step of administering *a vector encoding a protein or a nucleic acid* which inhibits a signal transduction that is mediated by fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF2)-FGF receptor 1-Ras-Raf-MAP kinase." As such, claim 1 involves administering a vector and this vector encodes either a protein or a nucleic acid. Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 should be included in Group II as these claims read on methods of administering a vector encoding a nucleic acid.

In sum, Applicants respectfully request that the grouping of claims set forth in the Restriction Requirement be amended to include claims 1-10 in Group I and claims 1, 2, 3,

5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 in Group II.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not present an undue burden on the Office to examine Groups I and II together in the present application. The Office, in support of the present restriction requirement states (page 3):

> Each of the inventions is distinct from the other as the methods of using a nucleic acid vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein requires different reagents than administration of nucleic acids, such as RNAi or antisense.

In response, Applicants note that the methods of both Group I and Group II involve administering a vector. Applicants submit that it would not be an undue burden on the Office to search the administration step for both vectors encoding a protein and vectors encoding a nucleic acid. Applicants respectfully request that Groups I and II be rejoined and examined together in the present application.

CONCLUSION

Enclosed is a Petition to extend the period for replying to the Restriction Requirement for two (2) months, to and including January 10, 2008, and a check in payment of the required extension fee.

If there are any additional charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8 January 2008

James D. DeCamp, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 43,580

JAY N. TITTEL, PH.D.
Reg. No. 52,290

Clark & Elbing LLP
101 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617-428-0200
Facsimile: 617-428-7045